Operational performance of "Kamini"

2482. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present operational performance of thorium based nuclear research reactor "Kamini"; and

(b) the details of future plan regarding nuclear power production based on the performance of "Kamini"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) KAMINI, a thorium based nuclear research reactor at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam, reached its full power of 30 KW in September 1997 and has been functioning satisfactorily.

(b) The nuclear power programme of the Department of Atomic Energy consist of three stages. The first stage of setting up of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) has already been attained. The second stage is the setting up of plutonium fuel based Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) , which is being developed. The third stage would be to set up reactors operating on a thorium-uranium-233 fuel cycle. The successful commissioning of KAMINI symbolises a small but significant step in the context of utilization of thorium in the third stage of the nuclear power programme. However, this can be taken up on a larger scale only after building up an adequate stock of uranium 233, which is obtained from the thorium used in the Fast Breeder Reactors.

Electricity generation by Nuclear Power Corporation

2483. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation propose to achieve its targets of electricity generation during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the total target fixed by NPC and whether the NPC achieved the target of electricity generation during the last three years; '

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the shortage of power in the country exists even achieving the target of electricity generation by NPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) a target of 9795 Million Units for the generation of nuclear power has been fixed as per Annual Action Plan drawn up for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. for the financial year 1998-99. NPCIL had achieved its targets during the last three years as given below:—

(Figures in million Units)

1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
7950	7983	7570	9068	8515	9618

(d) Yes, Sir. However, the contribution of the Nuclear Power Corporation to the total generation of electricity in the country is only about 2%.

Hazards from Uranium Mines in Bihar

2484. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention